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(71) Applicant(s) Addiction Limited (Incorporated in the United Kingdom) 2nd Floor, 14 Dover Street, LONDON, W1X 3PH, United Kingdom	(56) Documents Cited GB 2333945 A GB 1238922 A GB 0678623 A GB 0612170 A US 6018822 A
(72) Inventor(s) Edmund Woolf	(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition S) A3V INT CL ⁷ A41B , A41D Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI
(74) Agent and/or Address for Service A A Thornton & Co 235 High Holborn, LONDON, WC1V 7LE, United Kingdom	

(54) Abstract Title
Man's underwear and like garments

(57) Man's underwear or like garments e.g. in the form of shorts has a front panel 15 attached to the waistband and the crotch area but unconnected along its side edges whereby to permit access from either the left hand or right hand side. The side edges can be provided with buttons or hook and loop fastenings to temporarily attach the front panel to the remained of the garment.

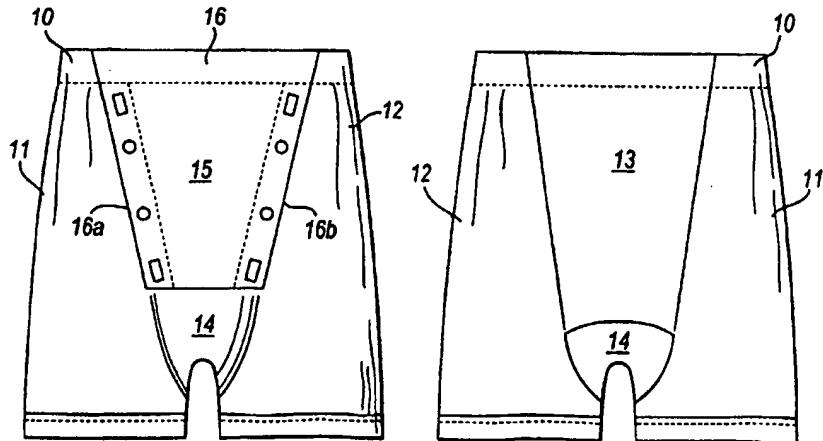


Fig.1

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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date but within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995.

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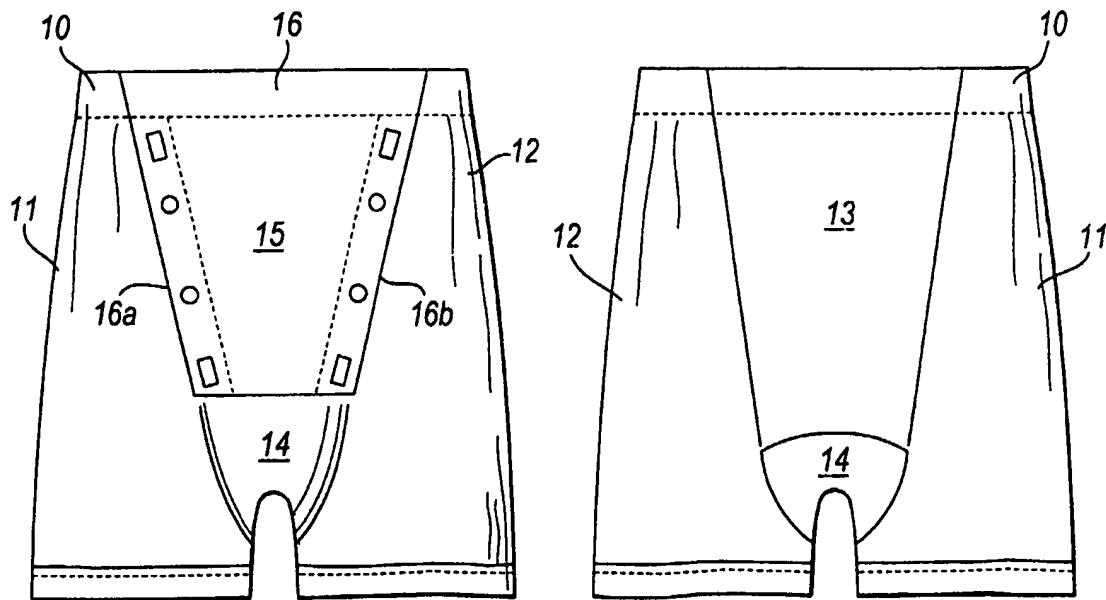


Fig. 1

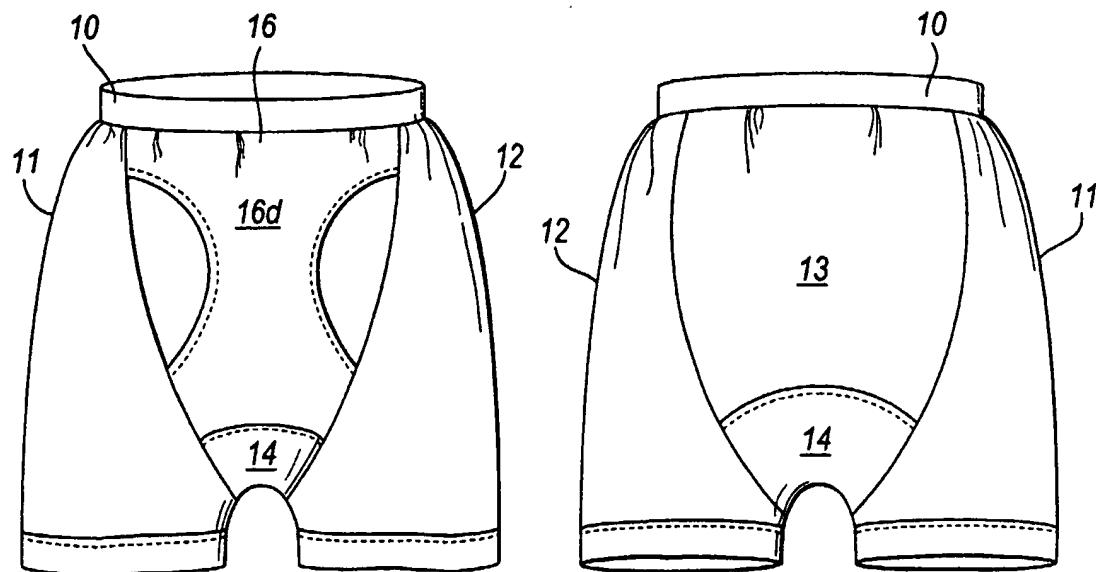


Fig. 2

MAN'S UNDERWEAR

The present invention relates to man's underwear which term is intended to encompass not only conventional underwear but also bathing wear or even pyjamas.

There are many designs for man's underwear and in many designs there is a front opening which may differ in location and construction depending on whether or not the underwear in question is boxer shorts or briefs. However, it is common that the opening will be directed to one side or the other. This is more clearly described in US-A-5,029,345.

The present invention provides man's underwear having a front panel attached at the waistband and the crotch area but unconnected along its side edges whereby to permit access from either the left hand or right hand side.

In order that the present invention may be more readily understood, embodiments thereof will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:-

Figure 1 shows front and rear elevations of one design of underwear; and

Figure 2 shows front and rear views of another design.

In the accompanying drawings, the same reference numerals are used for the same parts. Figure 1 shows a first design of man's underwear in the form of shorts having an elasticated waistband 10 and side panels 11 and 12 which form the legs of the shorts. A centre back panel 13 is sewn to the side panels 11 and 12 together with a crotch portion 14. With the construction thus far, there is a relatively wide generally trapezoidal opening 15 which is shown in dotted lines in the left hand view of Fig 1 and this opening is covered by a panel 16 which is attached to the waistband 10 and to the crotch panel 14 but is left unattached ie not permanently stitched to the shorts along its lateral edges 16a and 16b to allow access to the trapezoidal opening 15 from either side.

If desired, the edges 16a and 16b of the panel 16 can be temporarily attached to the remainder of the shorts by means of buttons or Velcro fastenings, for example.

Figure 2 shows a slightly different design where the front panel 16
5 has two shaped inner panels 16b and a plain outer panel.

CLAIMS:

1. Man's underwear having a front panel attached at the waist band and the crotch area but unconnected along its side edges whereby to permit access from
5 either the left hand side or right hand side.
2. Underwear as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one or both sides are provided with means for temporarily attaching the front panel to the remainder of the underwear.

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3. Underwear as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the front panel is provided with shaped edges.
4. Man's underwear substantially as hereinbefore described with reference
15 to Figures 1 or 2 of the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 0021647.3
Claims searched: 1-4

Examiner: Alex Littlejohn
Date of search: 14 December 2001

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): A3V

Int Cl (Ed.7): A41B; A41D

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 2333945 A (Levenson) see especially page 3 lines 16-18	2
A	GB 1238922 (Artzt) see e.g. page 3 lines 10-16	-
X,Y	GB 0678623 (Hurtley) see whole document, e.g. page 1 lines 91-93	X:1,3 Y:2
X,Y	GB 0612170 (Innes, Henderson & Co) see whole document, e.g. page 2 lines 41-48	X:1,3 Y:2
A	US 6018822 (Hernandez) see whole document	-

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.